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**ACTION** 

BENJAMIN, A

BERMAN, H.S. BRANCH, D.B. BURLINGAME, A.H. CARNIVAL, G.J. COPP, R.D.

CROUCHER, D.W.

DAVIS, J.G. EVERED, J.E

DIST.



Mr. LeRoy Carlson
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Colorado State Office
Golden Field Office
730 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401

Dear Mr. Carlson:

## Department of Energy

ROCKY FLATS OFFICE P.O. BOX 928 GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0928

MAR 3 10 53 AH '92

FEB 2 6 1992 LORG ROCKY FLATS PLANT

92-DOE-2285



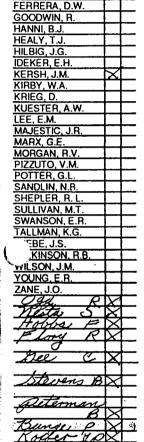
As requested in your January 6, 1992 letter, to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Rocky Flats Office (RFO) regarding the November 1991, "Final Biological Survey Report" for the 881- Hillside French Drain Project at Operable Unit no. 1, we are requesting to enter consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) per the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a result of the recent listing of the Ute ladies' tresses as a threatened species. In addition, we are requesting to enter consultation with the FWS per the ESA for the South Interceptor Ditch (SID) burn and dredging/construction.

At the time the Final Biological Survey Report was transmitted to FWS and the French Drain construction was initiated, the Ute ladies' tresses was a proposed species under the ESA. On February 20, 1992, DOE/RFO received a telefax from John Wegrzyn of your staff which included a Federal Register notice (Friday, January 17, 1992) listing the Ute ladies' tresses as a threatened species under the ESA. Recall that the "Final Biological Survey Report" for the SID burn was also submitted to FWS in November 1991.

Currently, the french drain construction is nearing completion. The current schedule calls for completion of the 2100 foot drain in mid-April. The currently approved design length is approximately 500 feet shorter than was presented in the Final Biological Survey Report transmitted to the FWS in November 1991. We are proposing to further shorten the drain by an additional 500 feet at the west end due to constructibility concerns and are meeting with EPA and CDH to discuss the final length of the french drain.

The burning and dredging/construction of the SID has not yet taken place at the RFP. Current plans are to conduct the burn and dredging/construction after the consultation process with FWS is completed.

Upon the recommendation of the FWS, DOE/RFO will have an expert on the Ute ladies' tresses inspect the habitats present at the existing 881-Hillside project as well as the proposed SID burn and dredging/construction and proposed Operable Unit No. 4 interim measure. This expert will be either one or both of the individuals suggested by FWS to DOE/RFO in a telephone conversation on February 25, 1992. The two individuals reside in the Denver metropolitan area are: Ms. Tamara Nauman and Mr. Bill Jennings. The result of this inspection will be an opinion whether the habitats are or are not suitable for the Ute ladies' tresses. At the present time, this is all that can be achieved since the flowering period for this plant is from late July through August.



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Any questions or concerns regarding this letter should be directed to Bruce Thatcher of my staff at 966-3532.

Sincerely,

Planes E. feelow for David P. Simonson Assistant Manager

for Environmental Management

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A. Rampertaap, EM-453

6th Ave. on the east side.

F. Lockhart, ERD, RFO

R. Schassburger, ERD, RFO

B. Thatcher, ERD, RFO

S. Grace, ERD, RFO

B. Lewis, ERD, RFO

G. Hill, EMB, RFO

P. Powell, ERD, RFO

J. Kersh, EG&G

S. Nesta, EG&G

R. Flory, EG&G

C. Gee, EG&G

B. Stevens, EG&G

B. Peterman, EG&G

J. Wegrzyn, FWS

D. Weber, CDOW

M. Hestmark, EPA

G. Baughman, CDH